



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **HAZELWOOD, MO., MAN SENTENCED FOR ATTEMPTING TO ENTICE MINOR**

**KANSAS CITY, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Hazelwood, Mo., man was sentenced in federal court today for using a computer with Internet access to attempt to entice a minor to engage in an unlawful sexual act.

**Geoffrey L. Simpkins**, 37, of Hazelwood, Mo., was sentenced this morning by U.S. District Judge Nanette K. Laughrey to three years in prison without parole.

On May 22, 2002, **Simpkins** pleaded guilty to a two-count indictment returned by a federal grand jury on November 14, 2001. By pleading guilty, Graves said, **Simpkins** admitted that he used a computer with Internet access to attempt to persuade a person under 18 years of age to engage in an unlawful sexual act. **Simpkins** also agreed to forfeit any property used in the commission of that offense, including a computer hard drive, keyboard and monitor.

**Simpkins** used an America On Line account to engage in sexually explicit conversations over the Internet and to arrange a meeting with a 12-year-old Independence, Mo., girl in July 1998, Graves said. **Simpkins** agreed to travel from the St. Louis area to Independence to have sexual intercourse with the victim. However, after he made contact with the victim, **Simpkins** fled the scene and was arrested before any sexual activity took place.

The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney William L. Meiners. It was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Hazelwood Police Department.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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